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IN YOUR WORDS

Clinton tries to quell email dispute

It seems to me that Clinton could have made this announcement immediately after the story broke if it was the truth. The long delay before any statement makes me believe that this was a carefully concocted story intended to deflect attention from the truth.

JIM WADDELL, COLUMBUS, OHIO

If convenience of a single email server was the purpose, then why didn't she use the State Department system for her personal business? It all gets down to trust and whether one believes Hillary. But the mere fact that she set up a personal email server and allowed herself to become embroiled in this controversy is not a good advertisement for her judgment or character. This gets more Nixonian every day.

TONY, NEW YORK

Oklahoma racism inquiry widens

Students bring a diversity of experiences, preconceived ideas, biases, prejudices and ignorances packed in their duffel bags filled from their small-town upbringings. These issues are what education and higher learning should be all about. Open up the dialogue and change these young people's opinions and actions not by punishment but through education and opportunities to make changes in their schools and communities.

KH, CALIFORNIA

The fraternity was founded on March 9, 1856, in Tuscaloosa, Ala. It celebrates that Southern heritage in its online magazine, The Record, describing a recent initiative "to bring Sigma Alpha Epsilon closer to its antebellum roots, closer to the original experience and goals shared by the Founding Fathers." When will universities ban fraternities and sororities whose sole purpose is drunken parties for their rirraff members and discrimination in regard to who can and can't join.

SHERR29, NEW JERSEY

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IN OUR PAGES

International Herald Tribune

1915 British Again Sweep Forward

LONDON Following up their splendid advance near La Bassée, in the course of which they carried the entire village of Neuve-Chapelle, the British forces have pressed on, driving the disorganized enemy before them, until the only Germans left over an area of a mile and a half to the east of the town are the dead and wounded. The advance is one of the most extensive that has been made by the British since the long siege of the trenches began. That the Germans were completely demoralized by the onslaught at several points is indicated by the comparatively small return fire that was offered.

1965 Rights Group Stages Sit-in

WASHINGTON A group of civil-rights advocates today staged a six-hour sit-in demonstration in the White House. The demonstrators said they would remain there on a hunger strike until allowed to see the president. But at 6 p.m. tonight they were removed by police. The demonstrators, white and Negro, entered the building with one of the regular sightseeing tours. Presidential press secretary George E. Reedy said they got as far as the ground-floor hallway when suddenly they plopped to the floor and began chanting: "We shall not be moved."

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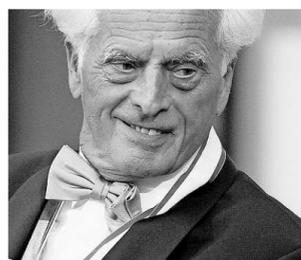
French rebels, U.S. style



PHOTOGRAPHS BY GILLES ELIE COHEN/ADDICT GALERIE

COOL CATS In 1982, Gilles Elie Cohen began photographing a multiracial group of teenagers in northern Paris who had adopted the style and attitude of American rock 'n' rollers from the 1950s. They called themselves the Del Vikings, after the doo-wop group. That project

led him to photograph another group, the Black Panthers, made up mostly of West Indians and named for the black nationalist group. The two pursuits became a book, "Vikings & Panthers" (Serious Publishing), and an exhibition showing at the Addict Galerie in Paris to April 25.



TOSHIFUMI KITAMURA/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
Mr. Otto in 2006. He will be posthumously awarded the Pritzker Prize on May 15.

Frei Otto, architect inspired by postwar shortage, dies at 89

BY FRED A. BERNSTEIN

Frei Otto, an architect and engineer known for creating dazzling tensile structures that inspired generations of architects to dangle roofs from poles and cables, died on Monday in Germany, weeks before he was to be named

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the recipient of the Pritzker Prize, architecture's most prestigious honor. He was 89.

Peter Palumbo, the Pritzker chairman, announced the death. Mr. Otto had been told about the prize in January, Mr. Palumbo said.

An award ceremony is scheduled for May 15 in Miami.

Mr. Otto's work grew out of a time of scarcity after World War II, when a shortage of construction materials encouraged him to innovate. One inspiration, he said, was the soap bubble, which showed him how to create the maximum enclosure with the minimum material.

Mr. Otto "turned a creative obsession with the techniques of lightweight, minimal construction into high art," Ada

Louise Huxtable, the architecture critic of The New York Times, wrote in 1971. He celebrated the bubble in his design of the West German Pavilion at the World Expo in Montreal in 1967.

The pavilion's "membrane-topped network of cables," Ms. Huxtable wrote, formed "an intricate wonderland of soaring shapes and magic, filtered light" that resulted in "an experience impossible to forget."

Five years after the Montreal project, at the 1972 Munich Olympics, Mr. Otto made an even bigger impression with his stadium covering and other prominent buildings designed in collaboration with Behnisch & Partner. Their acrylic roofs, draped from steel cables, resembled spider webs.

The architecture scholar Michael Meredith said in 2010 that, with these and other projects, Mr. Otto "seemed to be rethinking structure at its fundamental principles." Mr. Otto's work, he said, was "incredibly influential to a younger generation of architects who were interested in exploring structures based on natural principles, rather than based on idealized geometric forms."

Like R. Buckminster Fuller, the visionary American architect to whom he

was sometimes compared, Mr. Otto was drawn to designing world's fair pavilions because of the expectation that the buildings would be temporary, which gave him the freedom to experiment with unconventional materials and methods.

In an otherwise favorable review of Mr. Otto's work on display at the Museum of Modern Art in 1971, Ms. Huxtable disputed the assertion that Mr. Otto's ideas would revolutionize workplace and home design.

"To suggest that these structures are the answer to the age-old question of all construction — how to achieve more with less material and effort — is woefully misleading," she wrote.

The problem, she added, was that "the 'simplicity' of these lovely forms is complex beyond belief," requiring "unbelievably elaborate models and testing procedures."

As a result, she wrote, the forms were more appropriate to one-time events than to everyday uses.

Frei Paul Otto was born on May 31, 1925, in Siegmars, outside Chemnitz, the son of a sculptor. As a child, he built model airplanes; at 15, he began piloting gliders. Drafted at 17, he served in the

German Air Force during World War II. Captured, he was sent to a French P.O.W. camp, where, he said, he was struck by the need for temporary, inexpensive shelter. In 1951, during a study tour in the United States, he traveled to the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, N.C., where he was awed by the soaring cable-supported roof of the J.S. Morton Arena, a multiuse building completed in 1952.

Mr. Otto opened his practice in 1952, the same year he married Amanda



Navigating Beijing's sea of red tape

Letter From China

DAN LEVIN

BEIJING A rambunctious brunette with a fondness for robots, Jessica Cherry looks like a typical 5-year-old. But to the Chinese government she is invisible, one of millions of people who have fallen afoul of a sprawling bureaucracy that punishes those lacking the necessary paperwork.

Jessica became entangled in red tape before she even took her first breath. Though her Scottish father obtained a British passport for her, the government regards her as Chinese, because she was born in Beijing to a Chinese mother. But because her parents did not know they needed to get the birth permit required of Chinese nationals, Jessica is now stuck in administrative limbo: ineligible for a Chinese passport and other documents that define citizenship here, even as the authorities refuse to officially recognize her as a foreigner.

Her mother, Daisy Li, said she usually devotes about 50 days to the bureaucratic jujitsu required to obtain the entry-exit visa that allows her daughter to leave the country — an exercise she has undertaken eight times. "It makes me cry and it makes me cry," said Ms. Li.

China's red tape is a bewildering maze of "relevant departments," official red-ink seals and stone-faced functionaries who send citizens ricocheting from one government office to another in their quest for permission to work, reside, marry and raise families. Widely viewed as madden-

ingly inefficient by ordinary Chinese, bureaucracy is wielded as a tool for social and political control, "an unmovable layer insulating the top leader from popular pressure," said Minxin Pei, a scholar of Chinese politics at Claremont McKenna College in California.

"In China, after you go through the red tape, you often don't get an outcome or an explanation," said Mr. Pei. "The system is designed to allow bureaucrats to do nothing and get away with it."

China's seven million public servants have long been a target of scorn by citizens who accuse them of laziness and corruption. Last year, a municipal water official with a history of turning off customers' taps, including an entire village, if they refused to pay kickbacks, was detained after investigators found \$20 million in cash hidden in his home. In February, the head of an administrative office was filmed chewing sunflower seeds at his desk while citizens waited in long lines. Faced with public outrage, the local authorities claimed he had diabetes, which forced him to eat continuously to prevent fainting.

But the dizzying array of regulations are the biggest challenge. At the center of the web of red tape lies the hukou, or family registration, a system akin to internal passports dating from the Mao era that tethers services like public education, subsidized health care and pensions to the birthplace of a person's parent — even if that person never lived there. Intended to restrict the flow of rural villagers to large cities, the hukou system has come under fire in recent years. While millions of migrants have flocked to work in China's booming metropolises, critics say they have become second-class citizens who face discrimination in schooling, housing and hiring.

The system often forces migrants to choose between their child and their job. Over 61 million children — about one-fifth of the country's children — live in villages without their parents, according to Xinhua, the state news agency.

Although Li Ying, 39, a secretary, moved to Beijing with her parents in 1981, her hukou is registered in a distant town, meaning her 6-year-old son probably will be shut out of the city's free public elementary schools come first grade next September. One recent afternoon, she sat in a Beijing administrative center with a sheaf of documents on her lap, waiting for her number to be called so she could apply for a temporary work and residency permit that would allow Ms. Li to send her child to public school in the city where she lives and pays taxes.

The application process is a microcosm of the bureaucratic gantlet many Chinese must endure. Among the 14 required documents, Ms. Li must provide a housing contract, her hukou, a diploma, a job contract, a marriage certificate, her husband's identity card, his job contract and hukou, a certificate proving she has only one child and a company document detailing her work performance and tax payments.

"What a headache," she said with a sigh. "Red tape is good for the government, but not for us Chinese people."

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